Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
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Viewing the Heavens from a Scientific Balloon by Remote Control

A video camera that allowed anyone with an Internet connection to remotely view the stars and planets from an altitude of more than 120,000 feet, above 99.5 percent of the atmosphere was successfully tested on a 29.47 million cubic-foot NASA scientific balloon that was launched from Palestine, Texas, on July 28.

NASA Photo

The primary payload for the flight was the Absolute Radiometer for Cosmology, Astrophysics and Diffuse Emission (ARCADE) instrument. The 5,066 pound instrument measured the frequency spectrum of the cosmic microwave background radiation at centimeter wavelengths by comparing the heat from deep space to an on-board blackbody calibrator. The principal investigator for ARCADE is Dr. Alan Kogut, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

A secondary instrument, called the CosmoCam, has two video cameras. One is a general observing camera with pan, tilt and zoom capability. The other is a CCD camera built for use in amateur astronomy and can be mounted on a Meade telescope during longer flights.

For this trial flight, which lasted 9 hours and 11 minutes, several astronomy enthusiasts were recruited to test the camera via the Internet. With longer flights, the CosmoCam could be accessible to more members of the general public as well as students.

"We have placed this Internet-controlled camera system at the brink of space, the ultimate mountaintop," said Scott Murphy of Rocket Science, Inc. "People who log on can point it anywhere they like, up toward the stars or back towards earth. We believe this is a great opportunity to bring people closer to space and the space program."

Future missions for CosmoCam will allow for observing prime targets such as the Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn and perhaps bright galaxies. CosmoCam has a solar filter to allow solar observing during the day.

CosmoCam is being developed by Rocket Science, Inc., in collaboration with NASA Goddard.

Wallops Shorts

In the News

Rocky Mountain News
"Outer Space is no Limitation for Teen with Science Dreams"

Advertiser Windward (Hawaii)
"Rocket Science a Blast for Blind Kane'ohe Teen"

Pocono Record
"Learning on the Fly"

Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was launched from Palestine, Texas, on July 28. The 29.47 million cubic balloon carried the Absolute Radiometer for Cosmology, Astrophysics and Diffuse Emission (ARCADE) instrument.

Dr. Alan Kogut, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, was the principal investigator. Total flight time was 9 hours, 11 minutes. The launch, ascent, float and termination were nominal.

This was a night termination using the Semi Automatic Parachute Release (SAPR) system.

NASA Official Named Hispanic Engineer of the Year

Alphonso V. Diaz, Associate Administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate, was selected as Hispanic Engineer of the Year by the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC).

The HENAAC selection committee represents industry, government and academia. The award is presented for overall leadership and technical achievement. According to HENAAC Chair Ray Mellado, Diaz was selected in part because of his position in NASA, his experience as Director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md., and his leadership of the agency-wide team which prepared the response to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

"I am pleased to have even been considered for such a prestigious award and am grateful to work in an organization like NASA where diversity in every dimension, including points of view, are recognized to be important in achieving mission success," Diaz said. "I will accept this award on behalf of all those in NASA who worked with me to make these achievements possible."

Your Backyard News

by Bonnie Crawford and Carl Ruf, Wallops Environmental Team

In an effort to manage our effect on the environment, we are implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS). An important part of an EMS is an initial assessment to see how environmental safeguards and principles are practiced in every Wallops organization. This initial assessment provides a baseline against which future progress can be measured and will occur in September 2005. Each organization will be contacted.

To help everyone understand more about this system, the Environmental Office will soon be kicking off "Basic Environmental Awareness Training". It will be provided through web based or classroom training. It will provide you with an understanding of how EMS works. It explains how your job and daily life both have an impact on our backyard.

Contact the Environmental Office at x2234, if you have any comments or ideas.

Financial Information Required For Shipments

by Kirk S. Webb
NASA Wallops Logistics Team

In order for the Traffic Management Office to efficiently process your shipment it is important that the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and other financial information on the GSFC 20-4 Shipping Request be complete and accurate. In addition to the WBS, the following financial information is required: Cost Center, NASA Function Code, Object Class, and Fund Source. This information should be entered in Block 16 on the GSFC Form 20-4.

Shipments can not be processed until all of the required financial information is provided. Contact your Resource Analyst for assistance if you are unsure of the data required. Accurate information will allow the Traffic Management Office to provide timely customer service and prompt payment to the commercial carrier.

Engineering Building Construction Status

Construction will begin on the new engineering building, located in E buildings area, after Space Shuttle Discovery lands, which is currently targeted for August 7.

Wallops History

August 3, 1960-- The first Sparrowbee sounding rocket was launched from Wallops Island, lifting a 56-pound University of Michigan payload to a 260-mile altitude.

Kudos to the Cafeteria Staff

The Wallops Cafeteria had a quarterly Food Safety Audit on Thursday, July 28, and scored a 95.1%. This is the highest score the Cafeteria has ever achieved on a Food Safety Audit.

The employees have done an outstanding job in getting the Cafeteria in top shape and maintaining it.

Driving a GOV?

Operators of Government-owned vehicles traveling to Greenbelt or Wallops should refuel the vehicle at an on-site fueling station.

Greenbelt - Building 27 (Soil Conservation Road) Open 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wallops - Building F-26. Open 24 hours

On-site locations should be used, if possible. If you use a commercial station and purchase fuel with a government credit card, do the following:
*use only the regular grade of unleaded fuel
*obtain a receipt for the fuel
*turn in receipt when returning vehicle.

If you have a mechanical problem with a motor pool vehicle while en route, contact the garage, 757-824-1451 or the Help desk after hours, 757-824-1235.

Also, motor pool vehicles are checked and cleaned to accommodate our customers. Your assistance is requested to maintain this condition. Remove all personal articles and trash, turn off all lights, and remove the keys when not in use.

If you have any questions, contact Tim Abbott at x1647 or by e-mail: Timothy.V.Abbott@nasa.gov

Security Reminder

All NASA civil servants and contractor employees are reminded that the removal from NASA Wallops Flight Facility of any Government-owned equipment shall be documented through the obtainment of a Center loan agreement.

Loans not to exceed 30 days may be documented using a Property Removal Permit (NASA Form 892) or the equivalent. Loans exceeding 30 days, but less than 180 days, will be documented using an Employee Loan Agreement (NASA Form 232) between NASA and the borrowing employee.

The borrowing employee shall possess valid documentation of the existing loan whenever attempting to remove the property from Center.

Refer to NPD 4200.1, NASA Equipment Management Manual for further information or contact Alvin Taylor at x1360 or Regina Waters at x1337.

LobsterFest

When: Friday, August 19, 2005
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are $16.00 per person and are available at the Exchange in E-2.

Menu includes salad, corn-on-the-cob, baked potato, hush puppies, dessert, iced tea. Tickets are limited, so get yours early.

Lost and Found

A black NIKON flash case was left in the Building E-2 Conference Room during the Federation of the Blind post-launch briefing.

If anyone picked up the case, please contact Justin Senter at x1056 or by email: jsenter@pop400.gsfc.nasa.gov

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov
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